I. Required Texts


Korsgaard, Christine M.
“Aristotle on Function and Virtue” (1986)  
“Aristotle and Kant on the Source of Value” (1986)  
“Acting for a Reason” (2004)  
“Aristotle’s Function Argument” (2008)  
Selections from *The Natural History of the Good*, the Pufendorf Lectures, 2013 (on the course web site)

II. Recommended Books

*Books containing Recommended Readings on the syllabus:*

*Other Recommended Books ordered at the Coop:*
III. Assignments

i) Seminar Presentation. Every enrolled student is required to present at least one paper to the seminar. Depending on class size, enrolled students may be invited to present more than one paper, and/or auditors may be invited to do presentations. The paper should be 20-30 minutes in presentation time. The text of the paper must be turned in to me by 5:00 on the Monday before the seminar at which it is to be presented, and an outline or handout must be prepared for distribution to all participants at the seminar at which it will be presented. Your paper may focus entirely on the material from Aristotle, or where appropriate may discuss some of the commentary, and it may be critical or exegetical as you choose. Discussion will follow.

ii) Weekly two-page papers. Every enrolled student is required to hand in two double-spaced pages of writing (no more than 500 words) each week, except the weeks in which they present papers. These short papers will be due by 5:00 each Monday, and must deal with the readings for the seminar on Wednesday. Apart from that requirement, the topic is entirely up to you - you may summarize the material, give a reading of a difficult passage, criticize one of Aristotle’s arguments, defend it against a possible criticism, or discuss one of the commentator’s interpretations - as long as it concerns the reading for the week in question. These papers will not be graded, but you must turn them in order to pass the course.

iii) Seminar Paper. A seminar paper of 15-20 pages is due on Tuesday, December 17. It may be, but does not have to be, an expanded version of your seminar presentation.

All written assignments should if possible be in Word. The course website contains a page called “Dropbox for Assignments” and you should submit all written work by posting it in the correct folder there. Please make absolutely sure that your name is on the text itself and give your file a name that includes your name and the date, e.g. “J.Doe.9.9.2013.”

IV. Schedule of Topics and Readings

For nearly every meeting of the seminar listed below you will find three sets of readings. The first set is the assigned reading for the week in question, from Aristotle and my own papers. The second set, “Further Reading,” directs you to parallel discussions in Aristotle’s other ethical and related writings, and occasionally to parallel discussions in the works of Plato. These further readings are optional, but I recommend them highly. The third set, “Commentary,” directs you to secondary writings that can be found in Sarah Broadie’s book and in the anthologies by Amélie Rorty and Richard Kraut. None of the commentary is assigned reading except my own papers.

R= Paper in the Rorty Anthology
K= Paper in the Kraut Anthology
Korsgaard papers are on the course website
9/3:  Introductory Meeting

9/10:  The Metaphysical and Psychological Background to Aristotle’s Ethics

Assigned Reading:  *Physics* II.1-3, 7-9  
*Metaphysics* VII, VIII, IX, XII  
*On the Soul* I.1; II.1-5

Commentary:  Irwin, “The Metaphysical and Psychological Basis of Aristotle’s Ethics” (R)  
Korsgaard, “Two Kinds of Matter in Aristotle’s Metaphysics”

9/17:  Aristotle’s Project and the Function Argument

Assigned Reading:  *Nicomachean Ethics* I  
Korsgaard, “Aristotle’s Function Argument”

Further Reading:  *Magna Moralia* I.1-4; II.8  
*Eudemian Ethics* I; II.1; VII.14  
*Politics* VII.1  
*Rhetoric* I.5-7  
Plato, *Republic* I, especially 352d - end of Book I

Commentary:  Broadie, *Ethics with Aristotle*, Chapter 1  
Nagel, “Aristotle on Eudaimonia” (R)  
Lawrence, “Human Good and Human Function” (K)

9/24:  Moral Virtue

Assigned Reading:  *Nicomachean Ethics* I.13; II; VI.13; X.9  
Korsgaard, “Aristotle on Function and Virtue”

Further Reading:  *Magna Moralia* I.5-9; II.9  
*Eudemian Ethics* II.1-5  
*Rhetoric* I.9  
Plato, *Republic* IV, 427d-445b

Commentary:  Urmson, “Aristotle’s Doctrine of the Mean” (R)  
Hursthouse, “The Central Doctrine of the Mean” (K)

10/1:  The Particular Moral Virtues

Assigned Reading:  *Nicomachean Ethics* III.6-12; IV
Further Reading:  
- *Magna Moralia* I. 20-32  
- *Eudemian Ethics* III  
- *On Virtues and Vices*  
- *Rhetoric* II.1-17  

Commentary:  
- Pears, “Courage as a Mean” (R)  
- Crisp, “Aristotle on Greatness of Soul” (K)  

10/8: Aristotle’s Theory of the Mind and Action  

Assigned Reading:  
- *Nicomachean Ethics* III.1-5; VI; VII.1-3  
- *On the Soul* II.12, III  
- *On the Movement of Animals*, §6-on  
- *Posterior Analytics* II.19  
- Korsgaard, “Acting for a Reason”  

Further Reading:  
- *Magna Moralia* I.9-19; II.3-6  
- *Eudemian Ethics* II.6-11  

Commentary:  
- Ackrill, “Aristotle on Action” (R)  
- Sauvé Meyer, “Aristotle on the Voluntary” (K)  

10/15: Intellectual Virtue  

Assigned Reading:  
- *Nicomachean Ethics* III.1-5; VI; VII.1-3 (same as above)  
- Korsgaard, “From Duty and for the Sake of the Noble: Kant and Aristotle on Morally Good Action”  

Further Reading:  
- *Magna Moralia* II.9; I.34  

Commentary:  
- Broadie, *Ethics with Aristotle*, Chapter 4  
- Sorabji, “Aristotle on the Role of Intellect in Virtue”  
- Reeve, “Aristotle on the Virtues of Thought”  

10/22: Akrasia and Responsibility  

Assigned Reading:  
- *Nicomachean Ethics* III.1-5, 10-12; V.8-11; VII.1-10  
- *On the Soul* I.1, III.7-11; *On the Movement of Animals* 7-11  

Further Reading:  
- *Magna Moralia* I.9-17, 33; II.4-6  
- *Eudemian Ethics* II.6-9; VII.13  
- *Rhetoric* I. 10-14  
- Plato, *Protagoras*, especially 349a-end
Commentary:  
I. Responsibility  
Broadie, *Ethics with Aristotle*, Chapter 3  
Irwin, “Reason and Responsibility in Aristotle”  
Destré, “Aristotle on Responsibility for One’s Character”  

II. Akrasia  
Broadie, *Ethics with Aristotle*, Chapter 5  
Rorty, “Akrasia and Pleasure: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 7”  
Price, “Acrasia and Self-Control”  

10/29: Pleasure  
Assigned Reading:  
*Nicomachean Ethics* VII.11-14; X.1-5; III.4  
*On the Soul* III.7  
*Metaphysics* XII.7  

Further Reading:  
*Magna Moralia* II.7  
*Rhetoric* I.11  
Plato, *Republic* IX, 580d-588a  
Plato, *Philebus*, 11a-55b** highly recommended  

Commentary:  
Broadie, *Ethics with Aristotle*, Chapter 6  
Annas, “Aristotle on Pleasure and Goodness” (R)  
Frede, “Pleasure and Pain in Aristotle’s Ethics” (K)  

11/5: Friendship and Self-Love  
Assigned Reading:  
*Nicomachean Ethics* VIII-IX  

Further Reading:  
*Magna Moralia* II.11-17  
*Eudemian Ethics* VII.1-12  
*Rhetoric* II.4  
Plato, *Symposium*, especially 198b-212c  
Plato, *Lysis*  

Commentary:  
Cooper, “Aristotle on Friendship” (R)  
Whiting, “The Nicomachean Account of *Philia*” (K)  

11/19: Justice and Politics  
Assigned Reading:  
*Nicomachean Ethics* V; VIII 9-11  
*Politics* I  

Further Reading:  
*Politics* III and IV
Commentary: Williams, “Justice as a Virtue” (R)
Young, “Aristotle on Justice” (K)

11/26: Eudaimonia and the Contemplative Life

Assigned Reading: Nicomachean Ethics I.4-5, 7-12; X. 6-9
Metaphysics XII.7, 9
Korsgaard, “Aristotle and Kant on the Source of Value”

Further Reading: Eudemian Ethics I. 1-5; VII.15
Politics VII.2-3; 13-15
Rhetoric I.5-7
Plato, Philebus, 55b-end

Commentary: Broadie, Ethics with Aristotle, Chapter 7
Wilkes, “The Good Man and the Good for Man in Aristotle’s Ethics” (R)
Rorty, “The Place of Contemplation in Aristotle’s Ethics” (R)

12/3: An Aristotelian Theory of the Good

Assigned Reading: Korsgaard, “The Origin of the Good and Our Animal Nature”
Korsgaard, Selections from The Natural History of the Good

Final Paper Due Tuesday, December 17